

Appl. No. 10/038,170  
 Atty. Docket No. 6768CD  
 Amdt. dated March 4, 2004  
 Reply to Office Action of November 17, 2003  
 Customer No. 27752

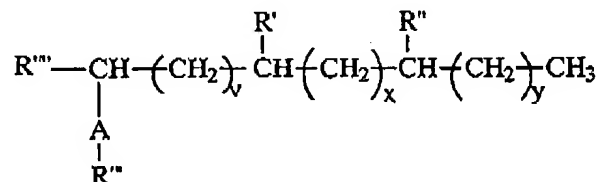
### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16 (canceled)

17. (currently amended) An composition suitable as a source for making alkylarylsulfonate surfactants, wherein said composition comprises at least two isomers, counted exclusive of ortho-, meta-, para-, and stereoisomers, of the formula:



wherein A is ~~an aromatic hydrocarbon selected from the group consisting of benzene, toluene, xylene, naphthalene, and mixtures thereof~~; R''' is selected from H and C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>3</sub> alkyl; R' is selected from hydrogen and C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>3</sub> alkyl; R'' is selected from hydrogen and C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>3</sub> alkyl; and R''' is selected from hydrogen and C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; v is an integer from 0 to 10; x is an integer from 0 to 10; y is an integer from 0 to 10;

wherein:

~~the total number of carbon atoms attached to A is less than about 20;~~

said composition comprises two or more isomers with respect to positions of attachment of R', R'' and A to the moiety

R'''-C(-)H(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>v</sub>C(-)H(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>x</sub>C(-)H(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>y</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub> of this formula;

at least one of R' and R'' is C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>3</sub> alkyl; when R''' is C<sub>1</sub>, the sum of v + x + y is at least 1; and when R''' is H, the sum of v + x + y is at least 2; and

in at least about 60% of said ~~alkylaryl~~ composition, A is attached to the moiety

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$R'''-C(-)H(CH_2)_vC(-)H(CH_2)_xC(-)H(CH_2)_y-CH_3$  in the position which is selected from positions alpha- and beta- to either of the two terminal carbon atoms thereof; wherein further said composition has a ratio of nonquaternary to quaternary carbon atoms in the moiety

$R'''-C(-)H(CH_2)_vC(-)H(CH_2)_xC(-)H(CH_2)_y-CH_3$

of at least about 10:1 by weight, when said quaternary carbon atoms are present.

Claims 18- 21. (canceled)

22. (currently amended) The composition according to Claim ~~[[7]]~~ 17 wherein one of R' and R'' is methyl or ethyl.

23. (currently amended) The composition according to Claim ~~[[7]]~~ 17 wherein one of R' and R'' is methyl.

24. (currently amended) The composition according to Claim ~~[[7]]~~ 17 wherein at least about 80% of said composition, A is attached to  $R'''-CH(CH_2)_vCH(CH_2)_xCH(CH_2)_y-CH_3$  in the position which is selected from positions alpha- and beta- to either of the two terminal carbon atoms thereof.

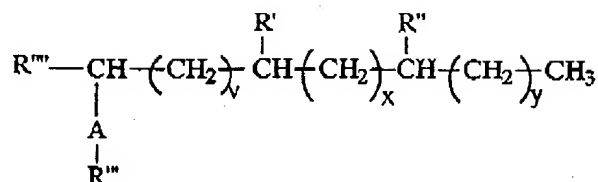
25. (currently amended) The composition according to Claim ~~[[7]]~~ 17 wherein R''' is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl.

Claims 26 -33 (canceled)

34. (currently amended) An composition suitable as a source for making alkylarylsulfonate surfactants, wherein said composition comprises:

a) from about 0.01% to about 99.99% by weight of an composition comprising at least two isomers, counted exclusive of ortho-, meta-, para- and stereoisomers, of an alkylaryl of the formula:

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wherein A is an aromatic hydrocarbon selected from the group consisting of benzene, toluene, xylene, naphthalene, and mixtures thereof; R''' is selected from H and C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>3</sub> alkyl; R' is selected from hydrogen and C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>3</sub> alkyl; R'' is selected from hydrogen and C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>3</sub> alkyl; and R''' is selected from hydrogen and C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; v is an integer from 0 to 10; x is an integer from 0 to 10; y is an integer from 0 to 10;

wherein:

~~the total number of carbon atoms attached to A is less than about 20;~~

said composition comprises two or more isomers with respect to positions of attachment of R', R'' and A to the moiety

R'''-C(-)H(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>v</sub>C(-)H(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>x</sub>C(-)H(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>y</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub> of this formula;

at least one of R' and R'' is C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>3</sub> alkyl; when R''' is C<sub>1</sub>, the sum of v + x + y is at least 1; and when R''' is H, the sum of v + x + y is at least 2; and

in at least about 60% of said composition, A is attached to the moiety

R'''-C(-)H(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>v</sub>C(-)H(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>x</sub>C(-)H(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>y</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub> in the position which is selected from positions alpha- and beta- to either of the two terminal carbon atoms thereof;

wherein further said composition has a ratio of nonquaternary to quaternary carbon atoms in the moiety

R'''-C(-)H(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>v</sub>C(-)H(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>x</sub>C(-)H(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>y</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>

of at least about 10:1 by weight, when said quaternary carbon atoms are present; and

b) from about 0.01% to about 99.99% by weight of at least one isomer of the linear analog of said composition of (a).

Claims 35. - 38. (canceled)

39. (currently amended) The composition according to Claim [[22]] 34 wherein one of R' and R'' is methyl or ethyl.

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40. (currently amended) The composition according to Claim [[26]] 34 wherein one of R' and R'' is methyl.

41. (currently amended) The composition according to Claims [[22]] 34 wherein at least about 80% of said composition, A is attached to R'''-CH(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>v</sub>CH(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>x</sub>CH(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>y</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub> in the position which is selected from positions alpha- and beta- to either of the two terminal carbon atoms thereof.

42. (currently amended) The composition according to Claim [[22]] 34 wherein R''' is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl.